

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4775

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 588

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFORN AO, US

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN MERCENARY TRIAL

REF: STATE 164332

1. ACCORDING TO JULY 2 NOTICIAS ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER LOPO DE NASVIMENTO MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ABOUT SENTENCES OF FOUR CONDEMNED MERCENARIES UPON ARRIVAL IN MAPUTO:

"THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE ARE AWAITING THE EXECUTION OF THE SENTENCES IMPOSED BY THE REVOLUTIONARY TRIBUNAL-FOUR DEATHS AND PRISON SENTENCES RANGING FROM 16 TO 30 YEARS. THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED APPEALS FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BRITISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE DEATH SENTENCES SHOULD BE

COMMUTED. WE HAVE ALSO RECEIVED THROUGH AN OFFICIAL CHANNEL THE POINT OF VIEW REFLECTED WITH REGARD TO THE SENTENCE WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THE NORTH AMERICAN MERCENARY." NASCIMENTO'S PUBLISHED COMMENTS WERE LIMITED TO ABOVE STATEMENT AND NOTICIAS DID NOT ADD ANYTHING EXTRA ON THE SUBJECT.

2. ON THE DAY OF THE SENTENCING, THE MAPUTO PRESS DISPLAYED RATHER CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARD "MERCENARIES". THE NOTICIAS ARTICLE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE CALLAN WAS SURE TO BE PUT TO DEATH, THE OTHER THREE INDIVIDUALS CONDEMNED TO DEATH SHOULD BE SPARED THAT FATE.

3. THE CAPE VERDEAN CHARGE' TOLD EMBOFF JUNE 29 IT WAS HIS PERSONAL OPINION THAT THE SENTENCE IMPOSED ON CALLAN WAS CERTAIN TO BE CARRIED OUT. HE DESCRIBED CALLAN AS A SAVAGE WITHOUT EMOTION OR HUMAN FEELINGS. HE ADDED THAT THE SENTENCES OF THE OTHER THREE CONDEMNED MEN HAD A GOOD CHANCE OF COMMUTATION.

&. ON JUNE 30 "NOTICIAS DA BEIRA" GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO OAU PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO HAVE ALL MERCENARIES CONSIDERED AS COMMON CRIMINALS. ALSO APPEARING ON FRONT PAGE WAS ARTICLE DATED LINED MAPUTO ENTITLED "IMPERIALIST CONCERNED WITH DEATH SENTENCES". ARTICLE STATED THAT THE WEST HAS BEGUN TO MANIFEST ITS CONCERN ABOUT SENTENCES LEVIED AGAINST MERCENARIES. BRITISH PRIME MINISTER HAS SENT AN APPEAL TO PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO ASKING FOR CLEMENCY FOR THOSE MERCENARIES CONDEMNED TO DEATH. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS SAID THE DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED ON AMERICAN "MERCENARY" DANIEL GERHART SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ILLEGAL SINCE THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR IT UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT REUTERS AND AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE WERE CONDUCTING CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST THE SENTENCES IMPOSED BY THE LUANDA TRIBUNAL. DE PREE

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